

Testimony of Mayor John M. Picard
City of West Haven

Proposed Bill 5458
AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR PHASE II OF THE
STREETSCAPING PROJECT IN THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN.

Chairman LeBeau, Chairman Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee. Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

I am in support of Proposed Bill No. 5458 which will authorize \$1 million in bond funding for Phase II of the streetscaping project, from Wagner Place to Water Street in West Haven, to include enhanced pedestrian access and renovated walkways.

In December, 2012, the City celebrated the completion of the \$2 million West River Bulkhead Reconstruction Project. The bulkhead was the critical step in the implementation of the West River Crossing Municipal Development Plan. This development will be anchored by a 73,000-square-foot high-rise that will house the new world headquarters of steel door manufacturer The Bilco Co. and several dozen other prospective tenants.

Also, In the Spring of 2013, construction will be complete on West Haven's new \$100 million train station. The station is approximately one mile from the West River Crossing site, making it an ideal access point for present and future employees of Bilco and other companies housed in the new office building.

The City of West Haven requests these funds to complete Phase II of the City's Streetscape Project, which will provide a transit and pedestrian connection between these two points. Phase I of the project focused on the Wagner Place/Saw Mill Road area near the new train station. The streetscaping included new sidewalks, street lighting, landscape materials and revised pedestrian crossings with better pedestrian access to bus shelters and transit stops.

Plans for Phase II include enhanced pedestrian access and renovated walkways along Main Street from the Train Station to the West River Crossing Development on Water Street. The reconstructed sidewalks will improve pedestrian access between bus shelters and transit stops and will provide for safer bus entrance and exit by providing "pullovers" adjacent to sidewalks to enhance handicapped access to transit buses. Reconstructed sidewalks will provide easy pedestrian access to and from transit stops between Water Street, the city central green and the train station. This will enable more persons to utilize the existing transit routes, and improved street lighting will provide for safer pedestrian travel between transit stops.

I hope you will consider a favorable vote for Proposed Bill No. 5458. Thank you for your time and attention.



West Haven City Plan